

§Appl. No. 09/381,903
Amdt. dated December 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants request rejoinder of claims 13 and 14. See, e.g., M.P.E.P. 821.04. These claims, and new claims 24-29, have been amended to depend on the allowed product claims.

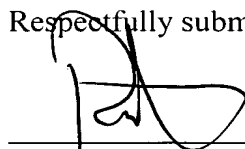
As described in the specification, Gramineae pollen (such as Phl or Phleum pretense) has been used for specific immunotherapy. See, e.g., Specification, Page 1, lines 12-37; Page 2, lines 27-37. The recombinant Gramineae allergens of the present invention have been shown to have properties that make them particularly useful and valuable in such methods, e.g., Specification, Page 3, lines 10-13; Page 3, line 33-Page 4, line 3; Page 4, lines 5-36. The specification provides clear evidence of their usefulness. Example 4 shows that allergens of the present invention possess diminished reactivity with IgE. In Example 5, it is demonstrated that the allergens have reduced ability to stimulate histamine release. Yet, in Examples 6-7, it is shown the allergens continue to react with T-cells. These results establish that the allergens of the present invention possess the ability to stimulate T-cells (e.g., to achieve specific immunotherapy), but show a reduction in the properties that cause undesirable side effects (e.g., histamine release and IgE reactivity).

In that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action of July 1, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If the Examiner for any reason feels that a personal conference with Applicant's Attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned locally.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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RML/jmj